CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A vehicle roof module that is made separately from a vehicle body, comprising:

a foamed plastic shell having an outer edge that includes a first layer that is adapted to be placed in a sealed fashion on the vehicle body frame and a second layer spaced from the first layer; and

a plurality of resilient locking elements at least partially supported by the first layer and having a locking portion positioned between the first and second layers, the locking portion being adapted to releasably secure the roof module to the vehicle body frame.

2. The roof module of claim 1, wherein the second layer completely covers the locking elements.

3. The roof module of claim 1, wherein the second layer includes a plurality of projections corresponding to the plurality of locking elements, the projections being positioned to cooperate with the locking elements to maintain the locking elements in an interlocking engagement with the vehicle frame.

4. The roof module of claim 3, wherein the second layer is pliable such that the projections are selectively moved out of a position contacting the locking elements.

5. The roof module of claim 3, wherein the projections have an interlocking hook that is releasably interlocked with a corresponding hook on the locking elements.

6. The roof module of claim 3, wherein the projections are integrally molded as part of the second layer.

7. The roof module of claim 1, wherein the locking elements include a fastening limb that is supported in the first layer and an interlocking limb that depends from the fastening limb.

8. The roof module of claim 7, wherein the interlocking limb has the form of a hairpin spring.

9. The roof module of claim 1, wherein the locking elements comprise spring steel strip material.